

SIBS SUPPORT GROUP

A support group for
siblings of children
served by Lincoln- Way
Area Joint Agreement
Special Education
District 843

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Sibs Support Group is to provide emotional support to children who have a sibling with a serious health issue or a special need (such as mental impairment, autism or other special education needs). The group will provide an opportunity for children to meet other brothers and sisters who may face similar challenges, as well as the joys of having a sibling in the family with special needs.

WHAT IS SIBS SUPPORT?

The Sibs Support will provide a time to meet in a casual atmosphere to promote sharing and friendship. Participants will have an opportunity to share stories, experiences and laugh with peers who truly know the ups and downs of having a sibling with special needs. This allows them to learn that they are not alone in their experiences and that confused or ambivalent feelings are typical. This is also a time for the participants to learn more about their siblings special needs and how to answer questions posed by friends, classmates and strangers. Sibs Support groups will be facilitated by Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 School Social Workers and School Psychologists. Sibs Support will be open to children who are residents in the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 boundaries. Each group will be formed based upon age and community response for the current school year. Each group will have 6-8 participants and will have an age range of no more than three years. A group may not be able to be formed if there are not enough participants within a certain age range.

The meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month from October to April, unless there is a school holiday. They will be held at the Pioneer Grove Educational Center, 601 Willow Street, Frankfort, IL 60423 from 4:30-6:00 P.M.

ENROLLMENT

If you and your child are interested in this program, please call the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 at 815.806.4600 and ask for a brochure to be sent to you. The brochure will have an enrollment form for you to fill out and mail in. Parents will then be notified about a mandatory meeting with the group leaders to review participant expectations, complete the enrollment forms, and to address any questions or concerns. Groups will be formed to begin in October. Placement is dependent on group space available and a waiting list will be generated if groups are full.

